

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No. 09/855,020
Docket No. Q64489

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 15, and 16 are independent claims.

Applicant thanks Examiner Mark Sager for granting a telephone interview with Applicant's representative John Bird on September 1, 2004. During this telephone interview independent claim 1, as well as Walker (US 6,110,041) and Walker et al. (US 5,779,549) were discussed.

Claim Rejections

Currently claims 1, 3-9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Walker '041 in view of Walker '549. Although the previous Examiner's rejection is based on the combination of Walker '041 and Walker et al. '549, the present Examiner has asserted that primary reference Walker '041 may be more pertinent than considered by the previous Examiner.

In view of this discussion, the independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 16 have been amended to recite that each personal information set includes information regarding a *same* parameter of play of the game. This amendment is fully supported by the original specification with respect to the *non-limiting* embodiments at least at page 10, lines 3-18 and page 12, lines 2-21. For example, the specification at page 12, lines 12-21 states:

*If, as described above, the newly generated personal
information of the game player is stored in the data storage 8*

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separately from the existing personal information of the game player, multiple sets of personal information of the same game player are stored in the data storage 8. In that case, for example, the game environment arranger 10 may automatically set up a game environment based on the latest personal information stored in the data storage 8, or let the game player select a desired set of personal information from the multiple sets of personal information stored in the data storage 8 and automatically set up a game environment based on the selected personal information.

Applicant respectfully submits that Walker '041 and Walker '549, either alone or in combination, do not disclose the claimed game machine or network system having a data storage that stores multiple personal information sets for each of the plurality of players, the stored personal information sets including information regarding a *same* parameter of play of the game.

Based on Applicant's representative's discussion with the Examiner, it appears that the Examiner considers each of Walker '041's stored information items for the players (e.g., sound options or speed of reel spins shown in Fig. 5) as corresponding to the recited "personal information sets." However, these information items regarding *different* parameters of play (e.g., sound options or speed of reel spins) cannot correspond to the stored personal information sets of the independent claims at least because Walker's information items do not include information regarding a *same* parameter of play. The fact that the data storage of the claimed invention stores multiple personal information sets- including information regarding a same parameter of play of the game- for each of the plurality of players allows a game environment arranger to automatically set up a game environment based on the selected personal information set.

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As such, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 7, and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow new independent claims 15 and 16. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 2, 3-6, 8, 9, and 11-14 at least because of their dependency from claim 1 or claim 7.

Information Disclosure Statement

Finally, to assist with the Examiner's consideration of the references discussed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 17, 2004, Applicant respectfully submits that the comments included in the Information Disclosure Statement are translations of the comments provided by the Examiner in the Japanese Office Actions dated February 26 and May 28, 2002.

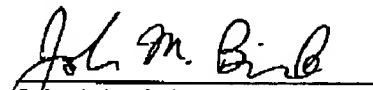
Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the comments included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 14, 2002 are translations of the comments provided by the Examiner in the Chinese Office Action dated March 12, 2004. The reference D1 refers to the first listed reference CN 1158458 and the reference number D2 refers to the second listed reference CN 1220433.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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